

JULY 29, 2021



# SoundFourth!

*Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church*

## CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

Upcoming Repertoire

Prayer Requests

Upcoming Calendar

A Devotional for Our Hearts

## Upcoming Repertoire



Sunday, August 1

- In This Very Room

Sunday August 8

- My Jesus, I Love Thee

Sunday, August 15

- The Gift of Love

Sunday, August 22

- People Need the Lord

Sunday, August 29

- The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Sunday, September 5

- Softly and Tenderly

Sunday, September 12

- Because He Lives



## Prayers

- **Jan Ashley** - We are thankful that Wallace is home from the hospital!
- **Faye Downs** - Daughter in hospice care
- **Thad Hardee** - Sympathy in the passing of his sister and our fellow choir member, Pope.
- Church transition & Pastor Search Committee

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?  
A PRAISE?

SEND IT TO BRAXTON!

BRAXTON@FBCSMITHFIELD.ORG

*"Magnify God's Name with Worship"*

# Upcoming Calendar

Choir rehearsals resume on August 18th  
with our  
First Rehearsal Party!  
7:30pm in the Choir Room!



Be sure to put our Fall Choir Retreat on your  
calendar for September 11th!



You will not want to miss this day of  
fun, festivities, and singing!



## HYMNSING

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF  
FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND SONG  
AS WE SING THE HYMNS OF OUR FAITH!  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW!

Sunday, September 26, 2021  
6-7:30 PM  
Fellowship Hall

First Baptist Church  
202 S. Fourth St.  
Smithfield, NC 27577

Visit [www.fbcsmithfield.org](http://www.fbcsmithfield.org) for more details.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY  
OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PRESENTS

## The Work of Christmas

Sunday, December 5, 2021  
11:00 AM

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# A Devotional for Our Hearts

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation."  
~ Hebrews 11:1-2 ~



Forward-looking faith in God and in the sure fulfillment of His promises through Christ preserves our souls (Heb. 10:37-39). Through such faith, we inherit eternal life (John 3:16). By faith, we persevere instead of committing the apostasy that the author of Hebrews warns us against.

Building on this idea, the author of Hebrews in chapter 11 describes what faith is and what it produces. He begins by defining faith: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (v. 1). Let us consider the second part of the definition first. Note how faith operates with respect to the invisible, with respect to those things that are not evident to our senses, with respect to "things not seen." Faith is

not sight. One day, we will see the Lord face-to-face (1 John 3:2). At that point, we will not need faith, but until that day faith is required. As the conviction of things not seen, faith is the certainty that what is not yet visible—the final fulfillment of God's promises—is real and is coming. John Chrysostom comments, "Faith then is seeing things not plain . . . and brings what are not seen to the same full assurance with what are seen."

The first part of the definition of faith given in Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for." A more literal translation of "assurance" in this case is "substance." Our faith gives substance to the things for which we hope. It is one of the evidences that the things we do not see—for example, Jesus sitting on the throne in heaven, the coming renewal of all creation—are real. Of course, belief that something is real is insufficient by itself to make it real. That is why Scripture gives us historical testimony and other objective evidences of the unseen. Nevertheless, present faith is one confirmation that the things for which we hope actually exist and will actually be accomplished according to God's plan.

Having defined faith, the author of Hebrews next tells us that it is the key to the commendation of the old covenant saints (v. 2). The Word of God praises people for their obedience, but any good that can be found in their obedience is grounded in the fact that they trust the Lord and are moved and empowered by Him to service. John Calvin writes, "However excellent were the works of the saints, it was from faith they derived their value, their worthiness, and all their excellences; and hence follows what he has already intimated, that the fathers pleased God by faith alone."

We can do all the good in the world, but if we do not trust in the Lord, it is ultimately not regarded by Him as good. But if we trust wholly in the Lord, believing that He will accomplish His promises, then what we do in service to Him is good despite its imperfections. He will commend us for these works. This does not mean faith-motivated works merit salvation; rather, it is a reminder that the Lord is pleased with us when we serve Him by faith.



*"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."*

-C.S. Lewis